

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
Report - March 2006

CHAPTER 3.1.9.

INFECTION WITH *PERKINSUS OLSENI*

Article 3.1.9.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, infection with *Perkinsus olsenii* means infection only with *Perkinsus olsenii*.

Methods for surveillance, diagnosis and confirmatory identification are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 3.1.9.2.

Susceptible species Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to ~~For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, susceptible species for infection with *Perkinsus olsenii* are:~~ primarily venerid clams (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*, *Venerupis pullastra*, *V. aurea*, *Ruditapes decussatus* and *R. philippinarum*), abalone (*Haliotis rubra*, *H. laevigata*, *H. Cyclobates* and *H. scalaris*) and other species (*Anadara trapezia*, *Barbatia novaezelandiae*, *Macomona liliana*, *Paphies australis*, *Crassostrea gigas* and *C. ariakensis*). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the *Aquatic Manual* when traded internationally.

~~To date, all species of bivalves and gastropods exposed to *Perkinsus olsenii* have been shown to be susceptible species. Therefore, all these mollusc species should be regarded as potentially susceptible species. Clinical manifestations and disease are mainly observed in the families Veneridae, Haliotidae and Arcidae.~~

~~Suspected cases, as defined in the *Aquatic Manual*, of infection with *Perkinsus olsenii* in species other than those listed in this Article should be referred immediately to the appropriate OIE Reference Laboratory, whether or not clinical signs are associated with the findings.~~

Article 3.1.9.3.

Commodities

1. When authorising importation or transit of the following *commodities*, *Competent Authorities* should not require any *Perkinsus olsenii* related conditions, regardless of the *Perkinsus olsenii* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:
 - a) From the species referred to in Article 3.1.9.2., for any purpose:
 - i) commercially-sterile canned or other heat treated products.

- b) The following *commodities* destined for human consumption from the species referred to in Article 3.1.9.2. which have been prepared in such a way as to minimise the likelihood of alternative uses:
 - i) chemically preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated, etc.);
 - ii) non commercially sterile heat treated products (e.g. ready prepared meals) that have been heat treated in a manner to ensure the inactivation of the parasite.

For the *commodities* referred to in point 1)b), Member Countries should consider introducing internal measures to prevent the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When authorising importation or transit of the *commodities* of a species referred to in Article 3.1.9.2., other than *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.9.3., *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 3.1.9.7. to 3.1.9.11. relevant to the *Perkinsus olseni* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*.
3. When considering the importation or transit of any other *commodity* from bivalve and gastropod species not referred to in Article 3.1.9.2. from an *exporting country, zone or compartment* not declared free of *Perkinsus olseni*, *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should conduct an analysis of the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of *Perkinsus olseni* and the potential consequences associated with importation of the *commodity*, prior to a decision. The outcome of this assessment should be made available to the exporting country. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 3.1.9.4.

Perkinsus olseni free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus olseni* if it meets the conditions in points 1), 2) or 3) below.

If a country shares a zone or compartment with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus olseni* if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared *Perkinsus olseni* free zones (see Article 3.1.9.5.).

1. A country where the susceptible species ~~species listed in Article 3.1.9.2.~~ are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter 3.1.9. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus olseni* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 3 years and infection with *Perkinsus olseni* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

2. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus olseni* when:
 - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 3 years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus olseni*.

OR

3. A country that has made a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus olseni* but in which the disease is detected may not make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus olseni* again until the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) infected populations have been safely destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
 - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus olseni*.

In the meantime, one or more areas of the remaining territory may be declared free zones, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that they meet the conditions in point 2) of Article 3.1.9.5.

Article 3.1.9.5.

***Perkinsus olseni* free zone or free compartment**

A *zone* or *compartment* free from *Perkinsus olseni* may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with *Perkinsus olseni* and declared free by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned, if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in points 1), 2) or 3) below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *Perkinsus olseni* free *zone* or *compartment* if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the *zone* or *compartment*.

1. In a country of unknown status for *Perkinsus olseni*, a *zone* or *compartment* where the

susceptible species ~~any species listed in Article 3.1.9.2.~~ are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *Perkinsus olseni* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 3 years and infection with *Perkinsus olseni* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

2. A *zone* or *compartment* where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *Perkinsus olseni* when:
 - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 3 years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus olseni*.

OR

3. A *zone* previously declared free from *Perkinsus olseni* but in which the disease is detected may not be declared free from *Perkinsus olseni* again until the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) infected populations have been safely destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
 - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus olseni*.

Article 3.1.9.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *Perkinsus olseni* following the provisions of point 1) of Articles 3.1.9.4. or 3.1.9.5., as relevant, may maintain its status as *Perkinsus olseni* free provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *Perkinsus olseni* following the provisions of point 2) of Articles 3.1.9.4. or 3.1.9.5., as relevant, may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as *Perkinsus olseni* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Perkinsus olseni*, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free *zones* or *compartments* in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Perkinsus olseni*, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Competent Authority* on the basis of the likelihood of *reinfection*.

Article 3.1.9.7.

Importation of live animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*

When importing live *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.9.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 3.1.9.4. or 3.1.9.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*.

The certificate ~~shall~~ should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.3.1.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.9.3.

Article 3.1.9.8.

Importation of live animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*

When importing, for *aquaculture*, *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.9.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:

1. the consignment is delivered directly into and held in *quarantine* facilities; and
2. the imported *aquatic animals* are continuously isolated from the local environment; and
3. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Perkinsus olseni*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.9.3.

Article 3.1.9.9.

Importation of live animals for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*

When importing, for processing for human consumption, *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.9.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities until processing and/or consumption; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Perkinsus olseni*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.9.3.

Article 3.1.9.10.

Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.9.2. from a country, zone or compartment free from *Perkinsus olseni*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 3.1.9.4. or 3.1.9.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*.

The certificate shall should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.3.2.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.9.3.

Article 3.1.9.11.

Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.9.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus olseni*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures such as:

- 1) the consignment is delivered directly to and held in biosecure/quarantine facilities for processing to one of the products referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.9.3. or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*; and
- 2) all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Perkinsus olseni*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.9.3.